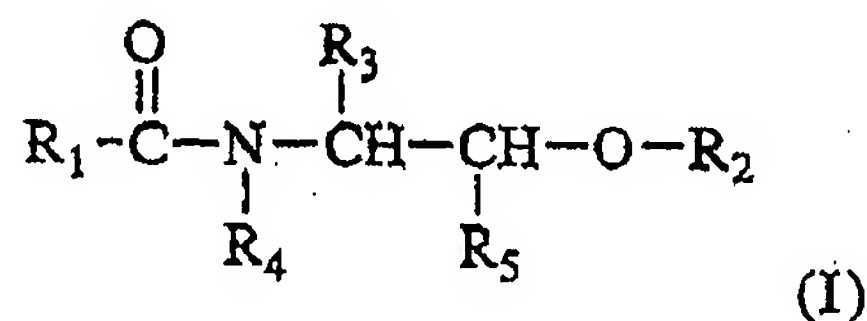


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for treating hair comprising
 applying to the hair a composition comprising at least one ceramide compound in a
 cosmetically acceptable medium, and
 raising the temperature of the hair by applying an iron to the hair, wherein the
 temperature of the iron is at least 60°C.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the iron is chosen from flat and round
 irons.
3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the iron temperature ranges from 60°
 to 220°C.
4. The process according to claim 3, wherein the iron temperature ranges from
 120° to 200°C.
5. The process according to claim 1, further comprising optionally rinsing the hair
 before or after applying the iron.
6. The process according to claim 1, further comprising pre-drying the hair with a
 dryer before applying the iron.
7. The process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide compound
 is a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

- R_1 is chosen from
 - saturated and unsaturated, linear and branched C_9 - C_{30} hydrocarbon radicals, wherein the radicals are optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group, the at least one hydroxyl group optionally being esterified with an entity chosen from saturated and unsaturated C_{16} - C_{30} fatty acids; and
 - $R''-(NR-CO)-R'$ radicals, wherein R is chosen from hydrogen and monohydroxylated and polyhydroxylated, for example, monohydroxylated, C_1 - C_{10} hydrocarbon radicals, R' and R'' are chosen from hydrocarbon radicals in which the sum of the carbon atoms ranges from 9 to 30, and wherein R' is a divalent radical;
 - R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, and (glycosyl)_n, (galactosyl)_m, and sulphogalactosyl radicals, wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 8;
 - R_3 is chosen from hydrogen and saturated and unsaturated C_{16} - C_{27} hydrocarbon radicals wherein the hydrocarbon radicals are optionally substituted with at least one C_1 - C_{14} alkyl radical; and R_3 may also be chosen from C_{15} - C_{26} α -hydroxyalkyl radicals, wherein the hydroxyalkyl radicals may optionally be esterified with a C_{16} - C_{30} α -hydroxy acid;
 - R_4 is chosen from hydrogen; saturated and unsaturated C_{16} - C_{27} hydrocarbon radicals; and
 - $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-R_6$ radicals, wherein R_6 is chosen from C_{10} - C_{26} hydrocarbon radicals;
- and
- R_5 is chosen from hydrogen, and monohydroxylated and polyhydroxylated C_1 - C_4 hydrocarbon radicals.

8. The process according to claim 7, wherein R_1 is chosen from optionally hydroxylated saturated and unsaturated alkyl radicals of C_{16} - C_{22} fatty acids; R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is chosen from optionally hydroxylated saturated linear C_{15} radicals.

9. The process according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one ceramide compound is chosen from:

- N-linoleoyldihydrosphingosine,
- N-oleoyldihydrosphingosine,
- N-palmitoyldihydrosphingosine,
- N-stearoyldihydrosphingosine,
- N-behenoyldihydrosphingosine,
- N-2-hydroxypalmitoyldihydrosphingosine, and
- N-stearoylphytosphingosine.

10. The process according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one ceramide compound is chosen from N-oleoyldihydrosphingosine, N-2-hydroxypalmitoyldihydrosphingosine, and N-stearoylphytosphingosine.

11. The process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide compound is present in an amount ranging from 0.001% to 20% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

12. The process according to claim 11, wherein the at least one ceramide compound is present in an amount ranging from 0.01% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein the at least one ceramide compound is present in an amount ranging from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

14. The process according to claim 1, further comprising applying to the hair a reducing composition comprising at least one reducing agent, before or after applying to the hair the composition comprising the at least one ceramide compound, and then optionally rinsing the hair.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the reducing composition has a pH ranging from 5 to 11.

16. The process according to claim 15, wherein the reducing composition has a pH ranging from 6.5 to 10.

17. The process according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises at least one reducing agent.

18. The process according to claim 17, wherein the at least one reducing agent is chosen from thioglycolic acid and its esters, cysteamine, and cysteine.

19. The process according to claim 18, wherein the at least one reducing agent is chosen from thioglycolic acid, glyceryl monothioglycolate, glycol monothioglycolate, ammonium thioglycolate, and cysteine.

20. The process according to claim 17, wherein the at least one reducing agent is present in an amount ranging from 0.1% to 25% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

21. The process according to claim 20, wherein the reducing agent is present in an amount ranging from 1% to 15% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition.

22. The process according to claim 1, further comprising applying an oxidizing composition to dry hair after applying the iron to the hair.

23. A process for smoothing hair comprising
applying to the hair a composition comprising at least one ceramide compound in a cosmetically acceptable medium, and
smoothing the hair by applying an iron to the hair, wherein the temperature of the iron is at least 60°C.